THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) does not have any coal mines in Bihar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer given at (a) above.

(d) Coal companies have outstanding coal sale dues from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). The outstanding dues as on 31.3.2005 (provisional) from BSEB amount to Rs. 196.42 crores.

As per securitisation scheme formulated by Government of India, the dues of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as on 30.9.2001 have to be settled by issue of bonds by the concerned State Governments. The dues of SEB as on 30.9.2001 is Rs. 184.78 crores. Coal companies have already reconciled their dues with BSEB as on 30.9.2001 but in spite of repeated persuasions and meeting BSEB has not yet certified the dues payable by them as on 30.9.2001.

For recovery of the dues for the period 1.10.2001 to 31 3.2005, Eastern Coalfields Limited, the coal company supplying coal to BSEB is pursuing for payment.

Lignite reserves

3101. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of lignite reserves in the country, State-wise;

(b) the rate of royalty given to the States for mining lignite; and

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the royalty given to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The details of lignite reserves in the country, State-wise are as under:—

SI No. State	Geological Reserves (MT)
1. Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	30472
2. Rajasthan	3485
3. Gujarat	1816
4. Jammu and Kashmir	128
5. Kerala	108
TOTAL:	36009

(b) The rate of royalty on lignite was revised from Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 50 per tonne *w.e.f.* 15.3.2001.

(c) A committee has been constituted in this Ministry to look into the matter of revision of royalty on lignite.

Production of anthracite coal

3102. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India produces very little of anthracite coal which we require domestically;

(b) what is the annual consumption of anthracite coal in the country;

(c) the quantity imported every year to meet internal demand;

(d) whether there is any alternative to anthracity coal; and

(e) what steps Government propose to ensure to make country self-dependent in meeting the coal needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) do not produce any anthracite coal.

(b) and (c) Since CIL and SCCL do not produce anthracite coal indigenously, only limited consumers resort to import, in view of high cost, to meet their specific needs. The estimated annual consumption of anthracite coal ranges from 7000 to 11000 tonnes. During 2002-03, a quantity of 7597 tonnes and during 2003-04, a quantity of 10,524 tonnes of anthracite coal were imported.

(d) High grade bituminous coal may be the alternative of anthracite coal which is abundant in India.

(e) CIL has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply:—

99 projects have been cosisered to be taken up duing tenth Plan.

Alltoment of coal block to end users for captive mining.

Improvement in equipment utilization.

Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.